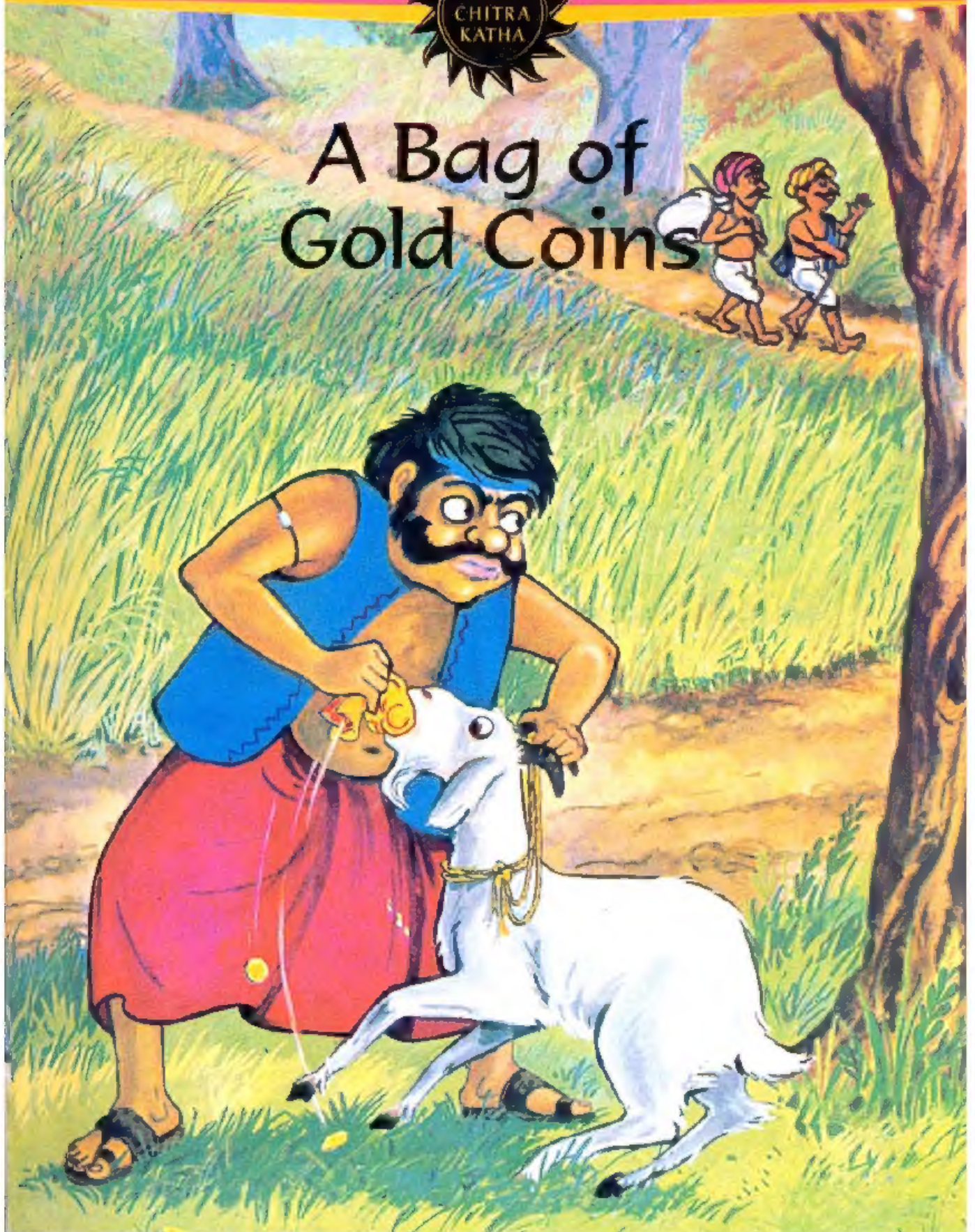




# A Bag of Gold Coins





Illustrated Classics From India

## A Bag of Gold Coins

The two stories in this Amar Chitra Katha are adapted from *Anwar-i-Suhaili*, a Persian version of the *Panchatantra*, written by Hussain Ali Waiz. Born in the kingdom of Khurasan at the time of Sultan Hussain Mirza (1469-1506 AD), Waiz took the liberty of changing the names of characters to give them local appeal.

The stories from *Anwar-i-Suhaili*, with its singularly beautiful writing, were illustrated many times by eminent painters in the courts of Akbar and Jahangir. It is one of the most beautiful expositions of the early phase of Mughal painting. Only three copies of the book have been found. Two of them are in India and the third in a museum in London.

In Waiz's version of the first story, the bag of gold coins is stuffed into the mouth of a cow, which is later killed. To avoid hurting the sentiments of a vast section of Indians, we have shown a goat in our version.

**Script: Shanti Devi Motichandra   Illustrations: V. B. Halbe   Cover: V. B. Halbe**



# A BAG OF GOLD COINS



LONG, LONG AGO THERE LIVED A FARMER WHO ALWAYS WORKED HARD.

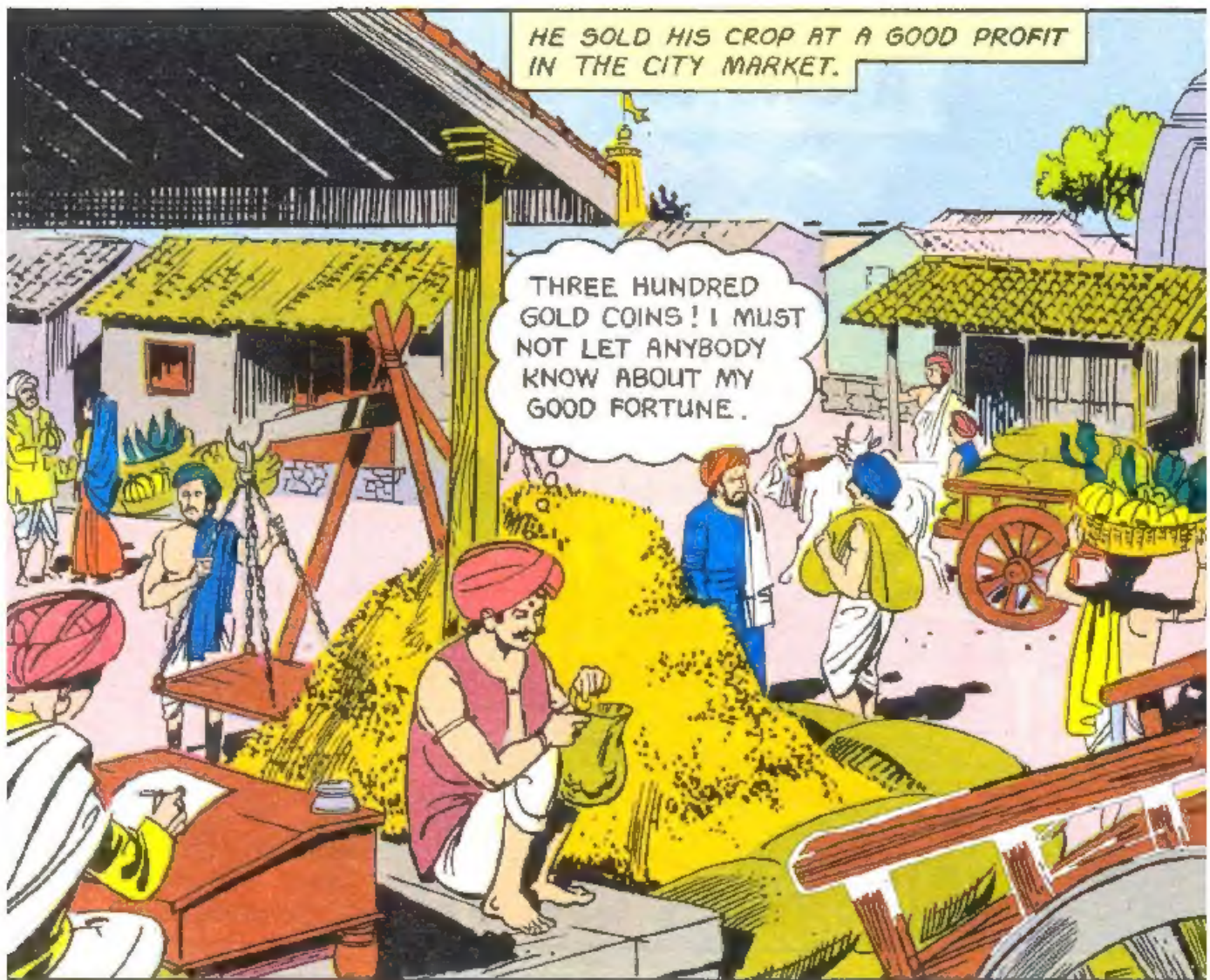


WITH HIS TOIL, HE RAISED A BUMPER CROP.



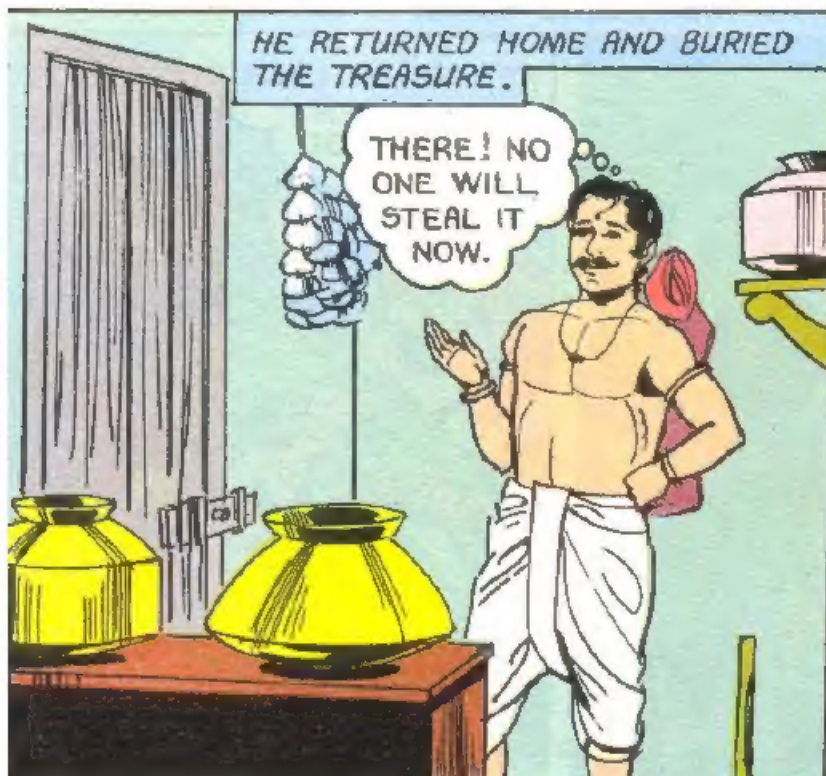
AT LAST MY LABOUR HAS BEEN REWARDED!





HE SOLD HIS CROP AT A GOOD PROFIT  
IN THE CITY MARKET.

THREE HUNDRED  
GOLD COINS! I MUST  
NOT LET ANYBODY  
KNOW ABOUT MY  
GOOD FORTUNE.



HE RETURNED HOME AND BURIED  
THE TREASURE.

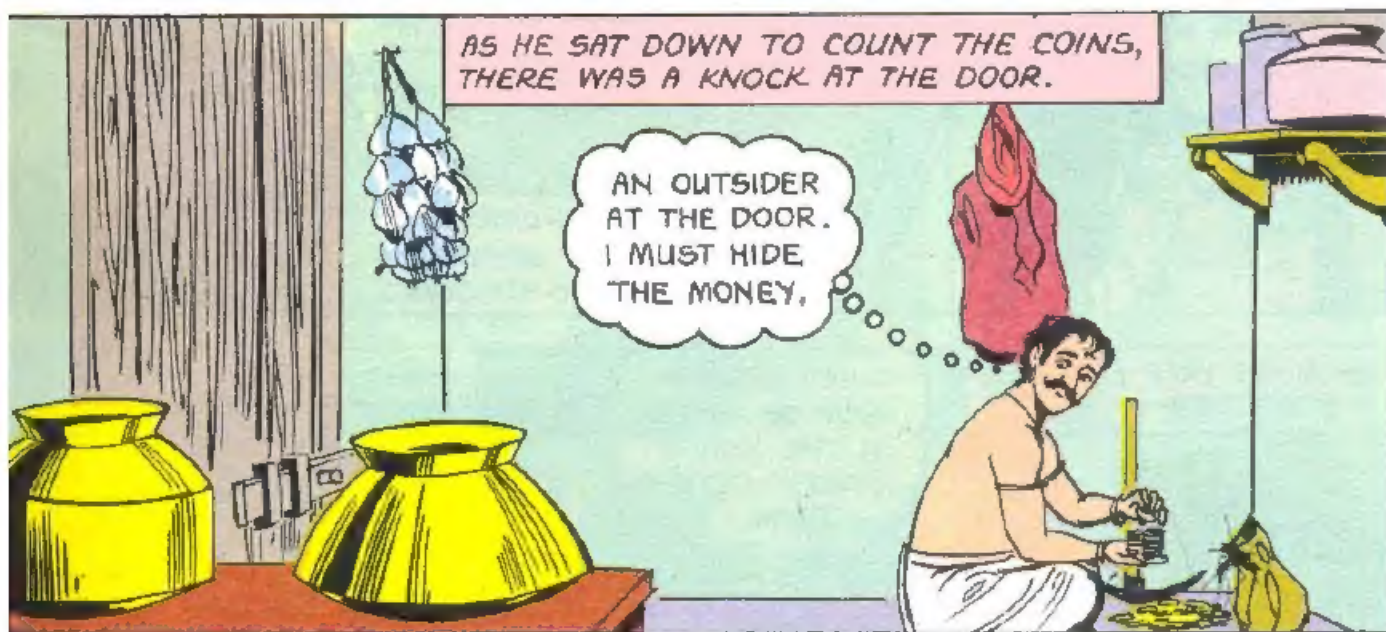
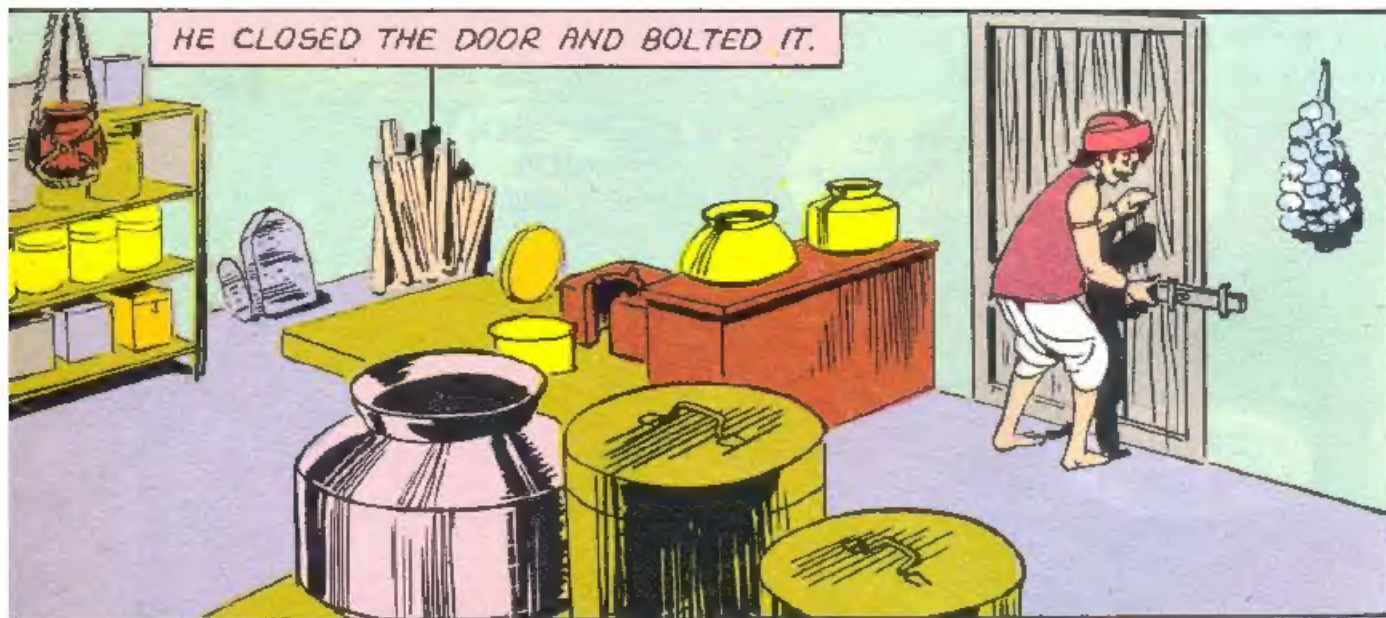
THERE! NO  
ONE WILL  
STEAL IT  
NOW.



A FEW DAYS  
LATER—

WAS IT THREE  
HUNDRED OR  
WAS IT MORE?  
LET ME CHECK.



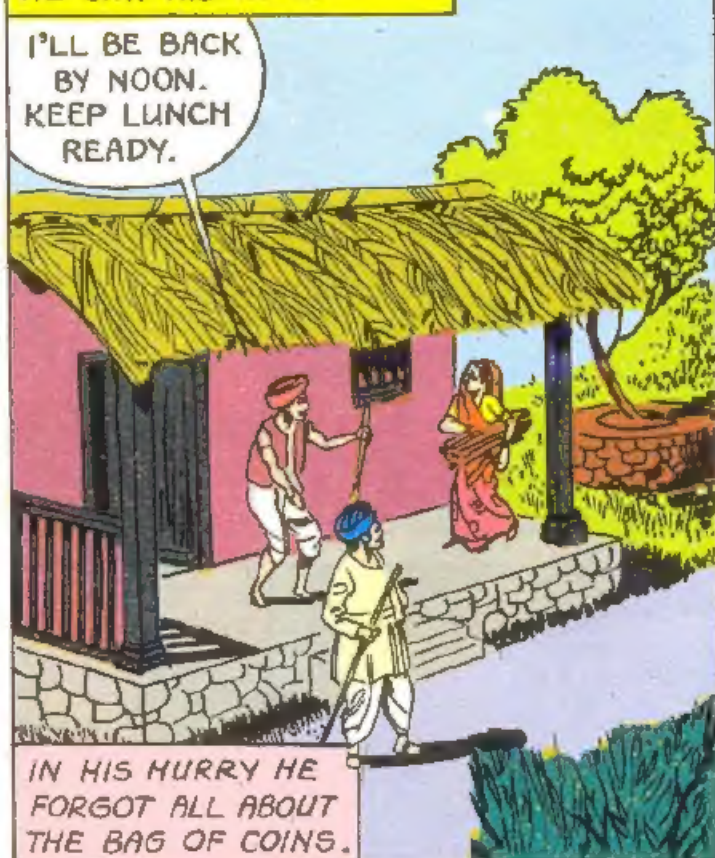




HE THEN OPENED THE DOOR. IT WAS  
A FRIEND OF HIS OUTSIDE.



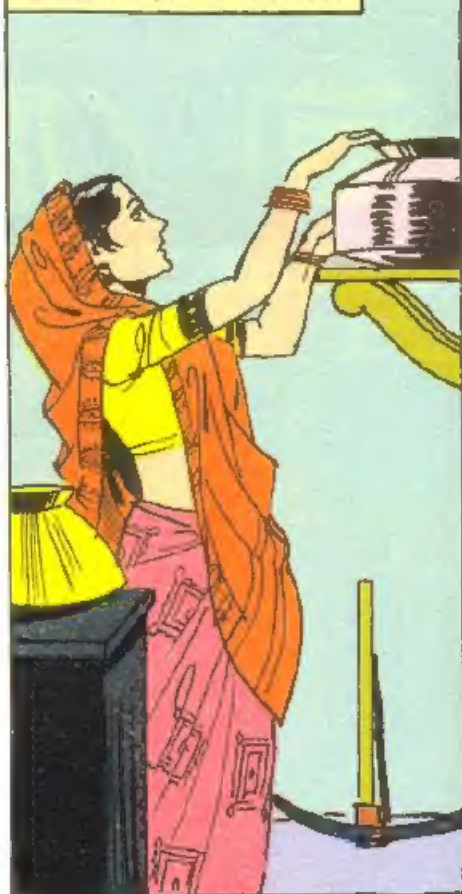
AS HE WAS SETTING OUT,  
HE SAW HIS WIFE.



WHEN HIS WIFE ENTERED  
THE KITCHEN—



SHE TOOK A POT...





..AND WAS ABOUT TO SET OUT FOR THE RIVER, WHEN A THOUGHT SUDDENLY STRUCK HER,



MY HUSBAND WILL BE UPSET IF HE FINDS NO ONE AT HOME WHEN HE RETURNS.



AH! HERE COMES THE BUTCHER! HE IS ALWAYS HELPFUL.



WILL YOU FETCH ME SOME WATER?

BY ALL MEANS. GIVE ME THE POT.

AS THE BUTCHER WALKED TOWARDS THE RIVER HE HEARD A CLINKING FROM THE POT.



JINGLE



WHAT'S THIS INSIDE THE POT? A BAG!



NOW WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? COINS?



HE PUT DOWN THE POT AND EXAMINED THE BAG.

GOLD COINS, ALL OF THEM! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!

HE FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE WATER AND WALKED TOWARDS THE CITY.

I WILL GIVE A FEAST TO MY FRIENDS.

HE BOUGHT A FAT GOAT AT THE MARKET, ON HIS WAY BACK —

WHAT A FOOL AM I, TO CARRY THE BAG OPENLY!

I MUST HIDE IT IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN THE GOAT'S INSIDE!



AS HE WENT FARTHER, HE MET HIS SON.

TAKE THIS GOAT HOME.  
I HAVE SOME WORK  
IN THE TOWN.

ALL RIGHT,  
FATHER.

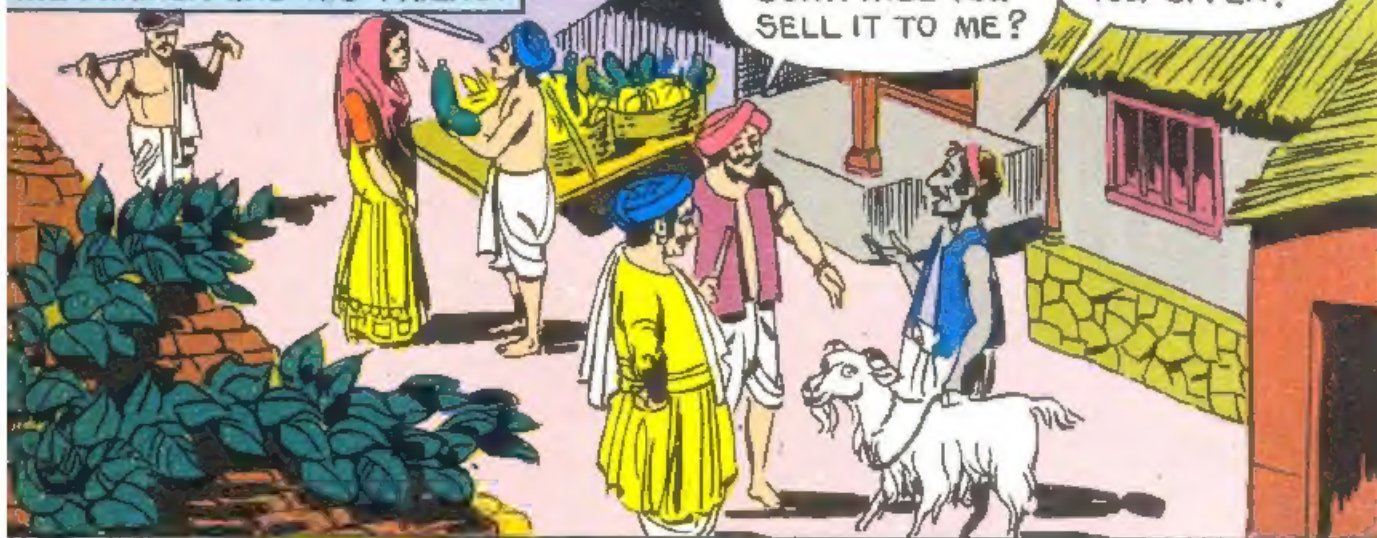


I PAID TWO GOLD COINS  
FOR THAT GOAT. SEE  
THAT YOU TAKE  
GOOD CARE  
OF IT.

I WILL,  
FATHER.



ON HIS WAY HOME, THE YOUTH MET  
THE FARMER AND HIS FRIEND.



THIS IS A FINE  
GOAT. WILL YOU  
SELL IT TO ME?

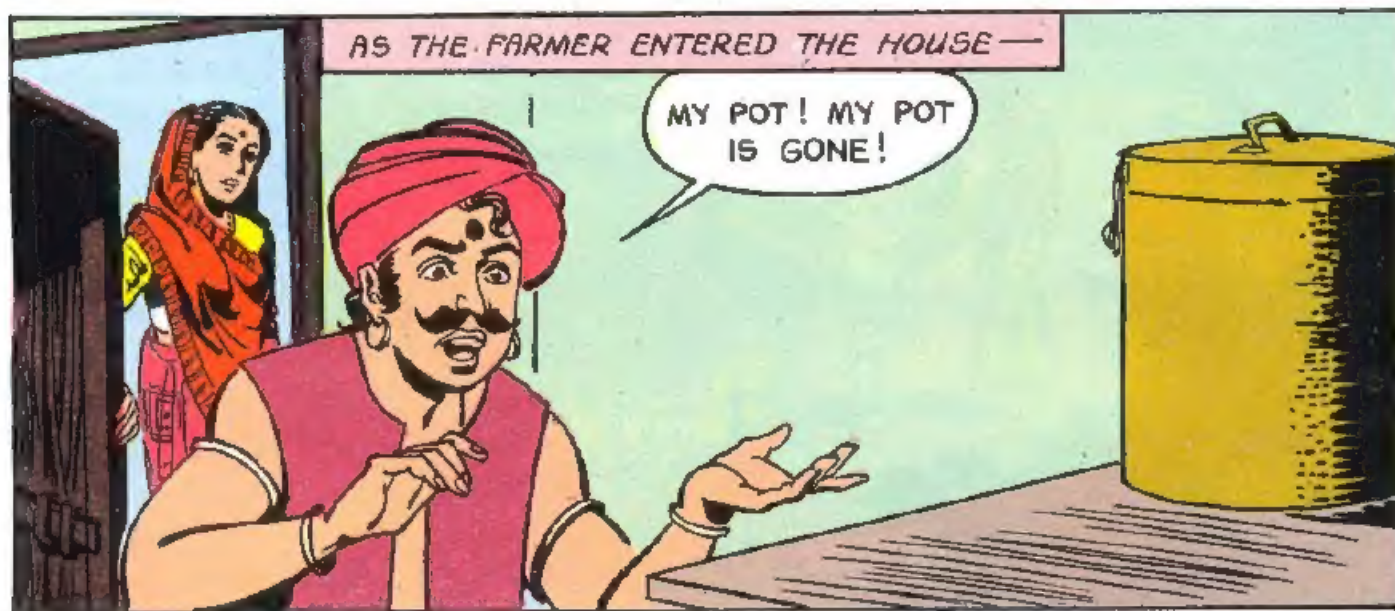
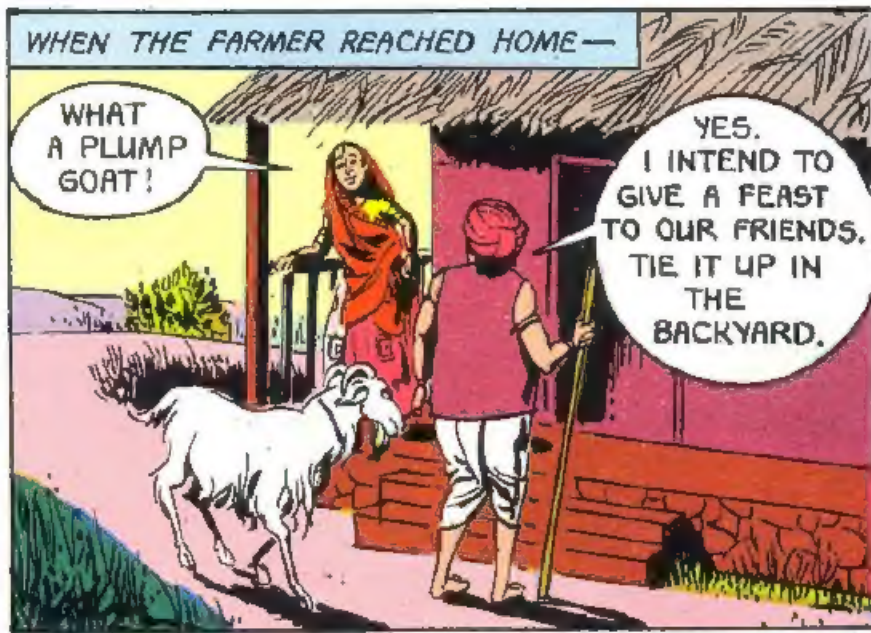
HOW MUCH WILL  
YOU OFFER?



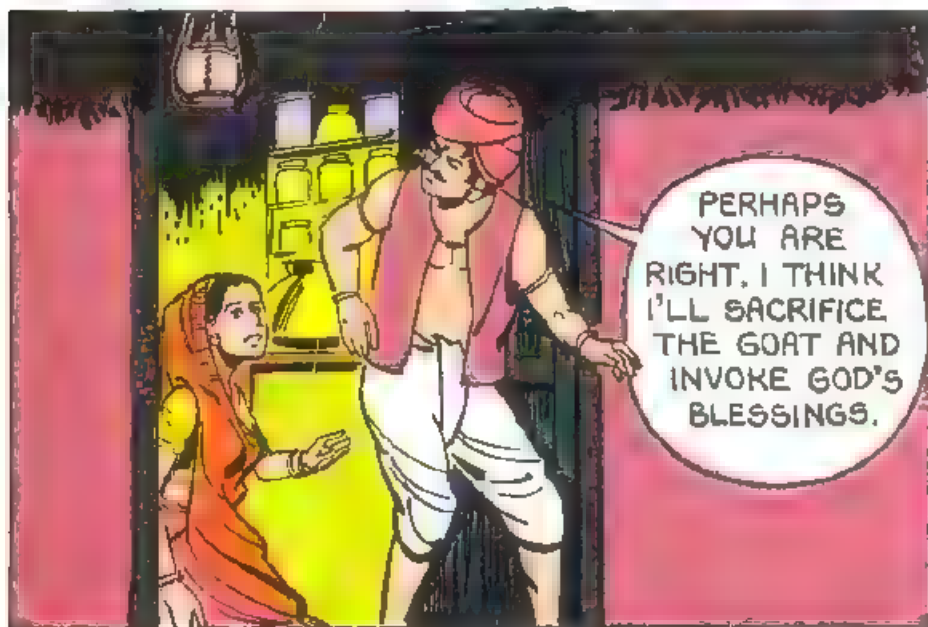
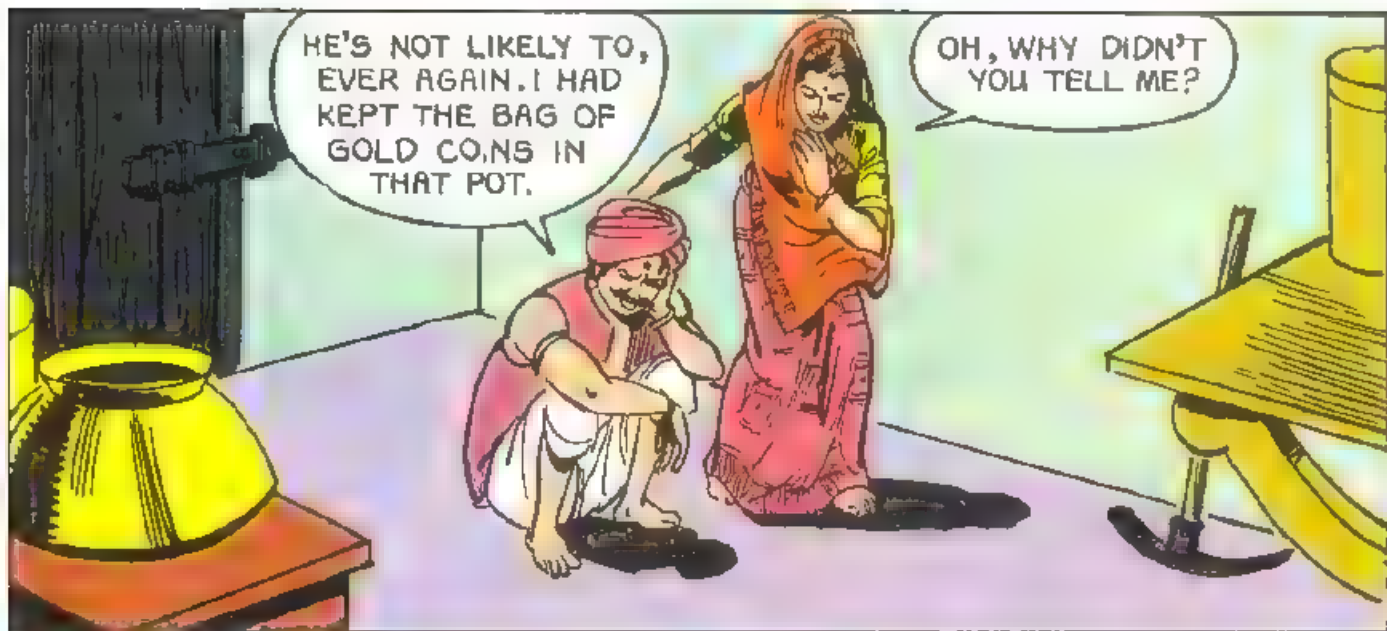
THREE GOLD  
COINS.

THE  
GOAT IS  
YOURS.

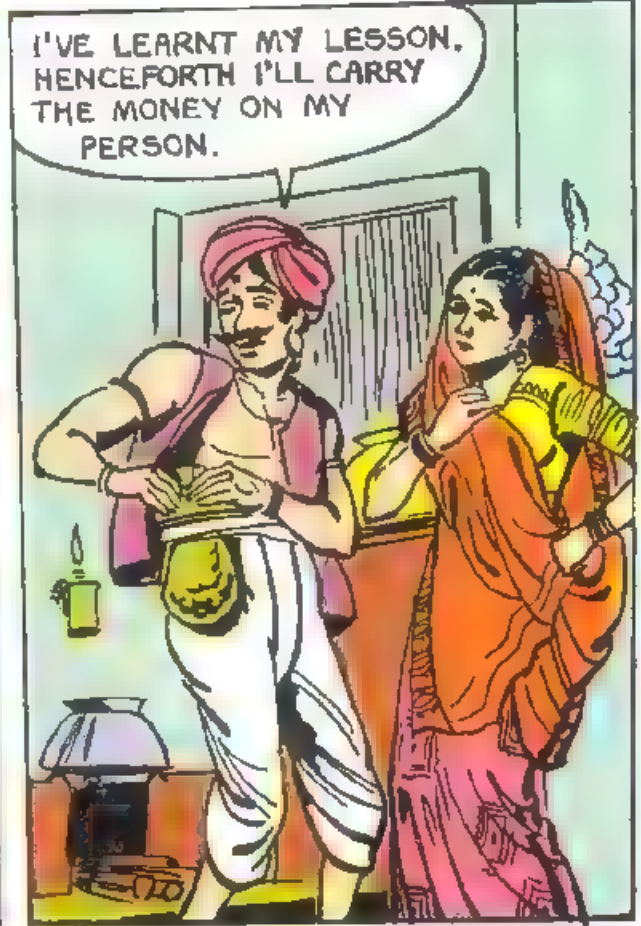
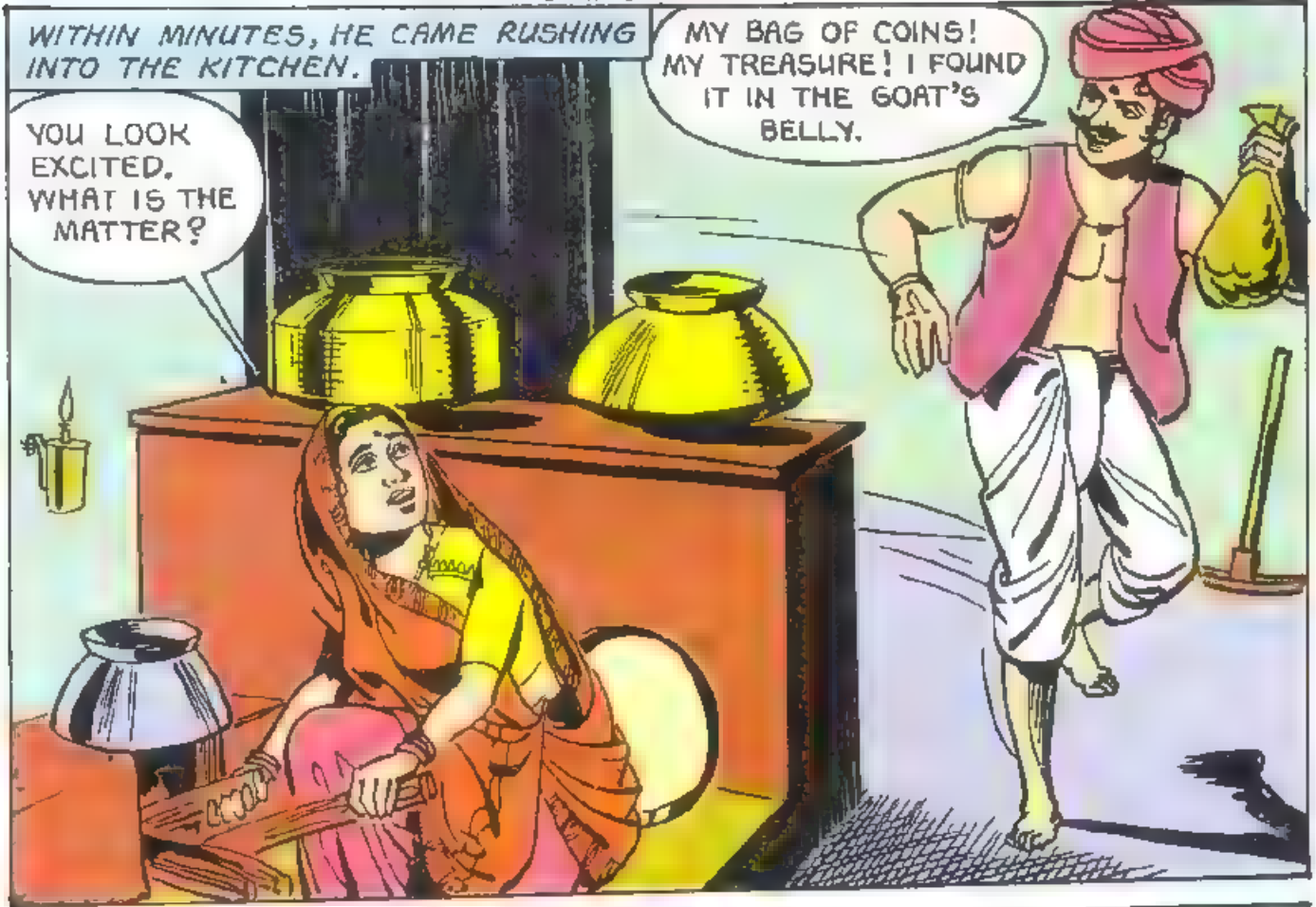








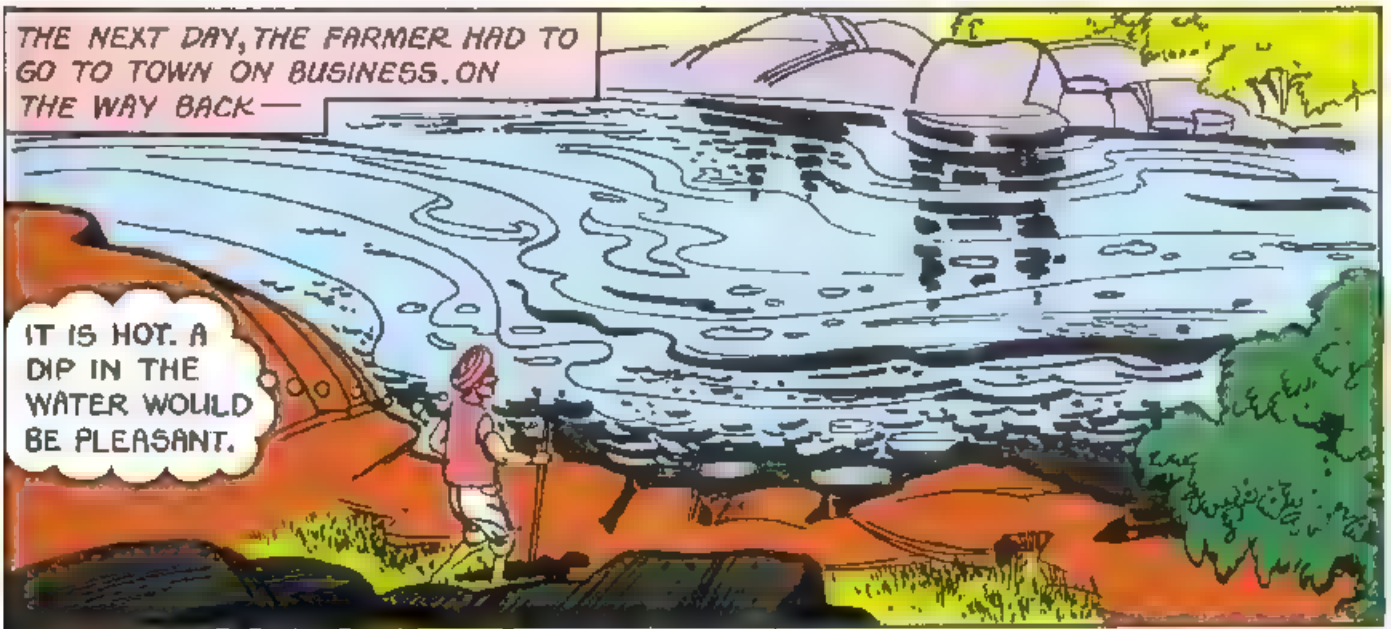




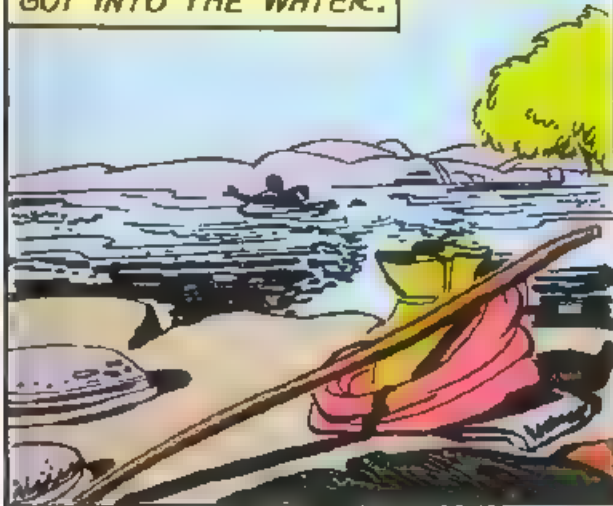


THE NEXT DAY, THE FARMER HAD TO GO TO TOWN ON BUSINESS. ON THE WAY BACK —

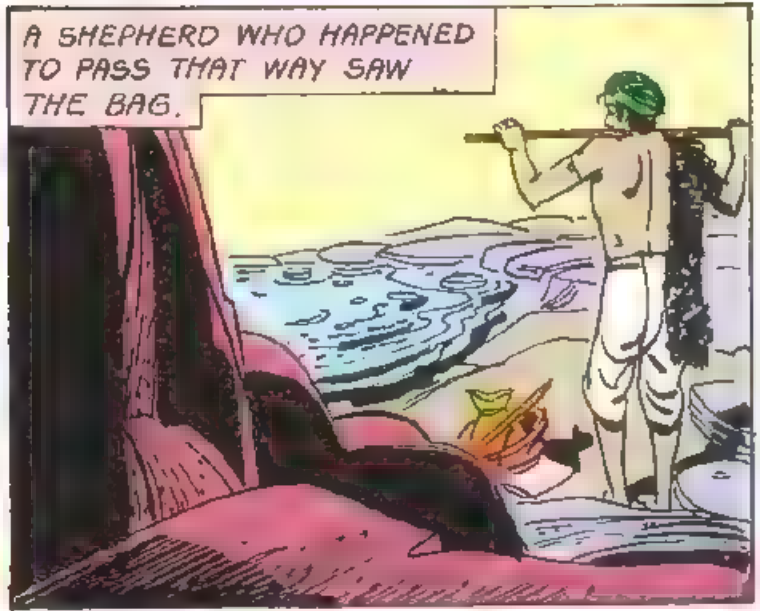
IT IS HOT. A DIP IN THE WATER WOULD BE PLEASANT.



LEAVING THE CLOTHES AND THE BAG OF COINS ON THE BANK, HE GOT INTO THE WATER.



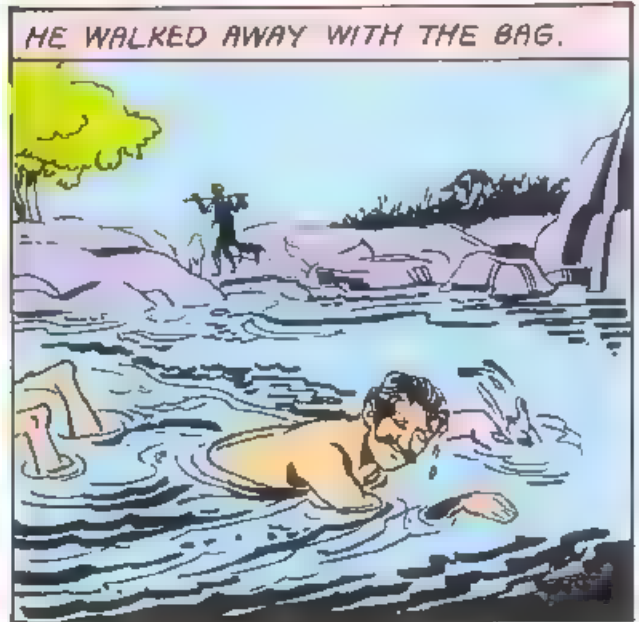
A SHEPHERD WHO HAPPENED TO PASS THAT WAY SAW THE BAG.



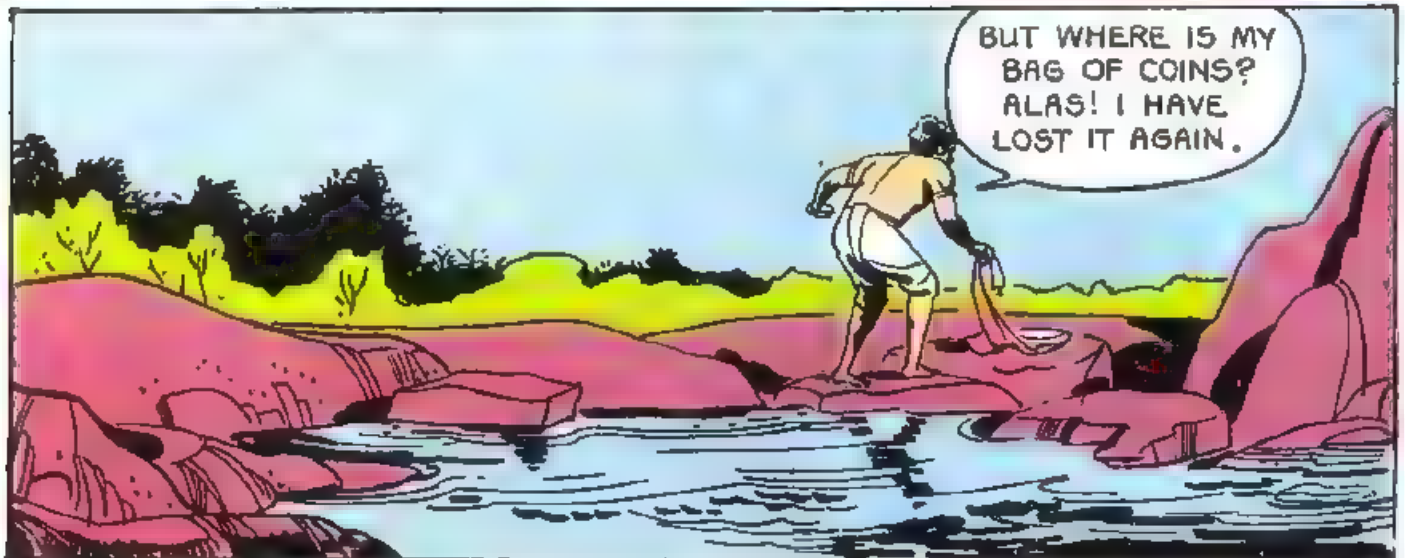
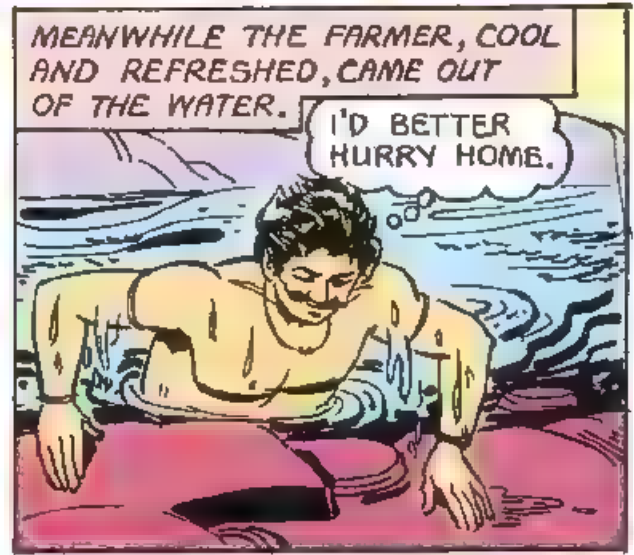
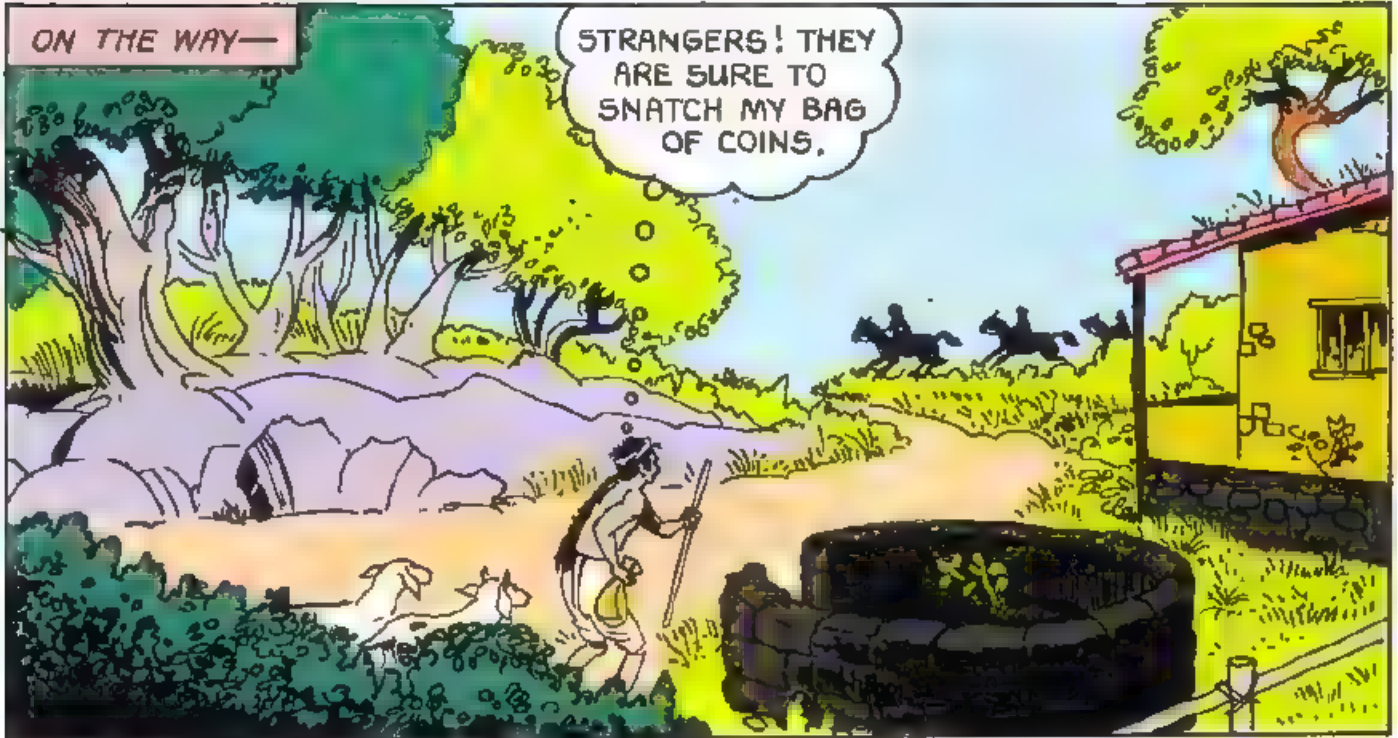
GOLD COINS!  
THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY.



HE WALKED AWAY WITH THE BAG.

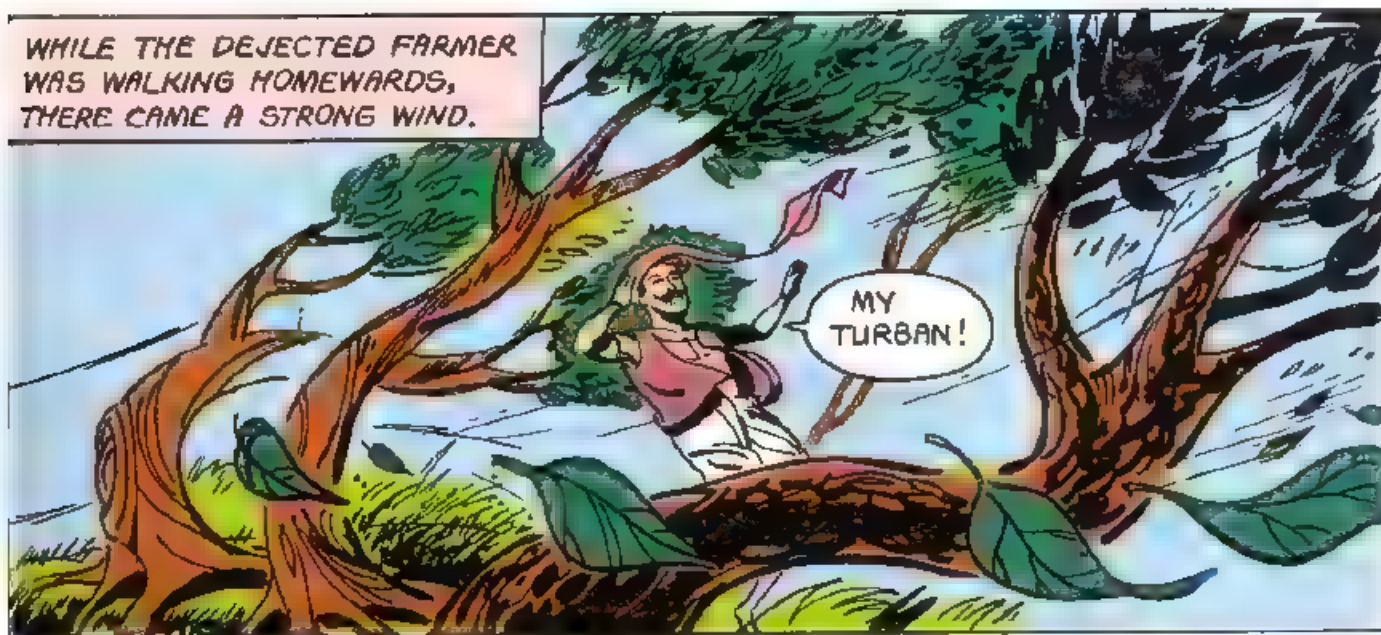




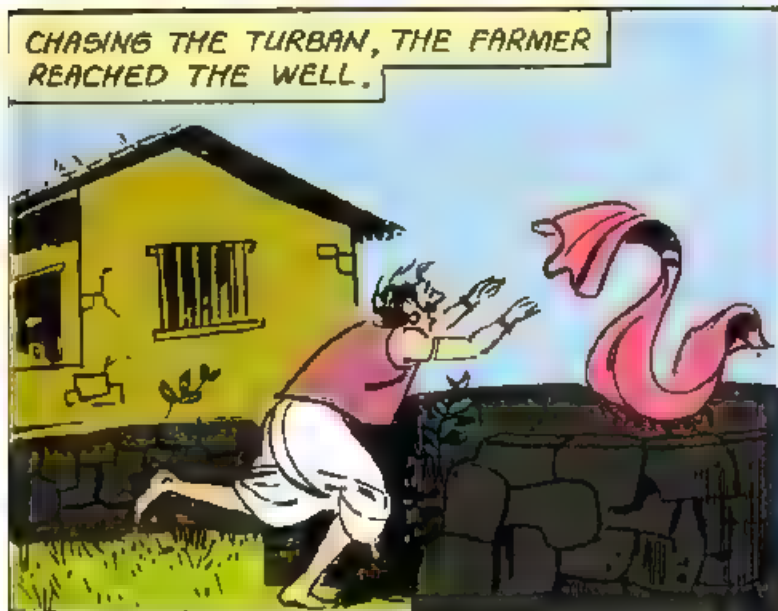




WHILE THE DEJECTED FARMER WAS WALKING HOMEWARDS, THERE CAME A STRONG WIND.



CHASING THE TURBAN, THE FARMER REACHED THE WELL.



HELP!



MY TREASURE!  
I'VE FOUND  
IT!



HE CLIMBED OUT OF  
THE WELL...





THE NEXT DAY, THE FARMER AND THE SHEPHERD RAN INTO EACH OTHER AT THE VILLAGE MARKET.

YOU LOOK UNHAPPY. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

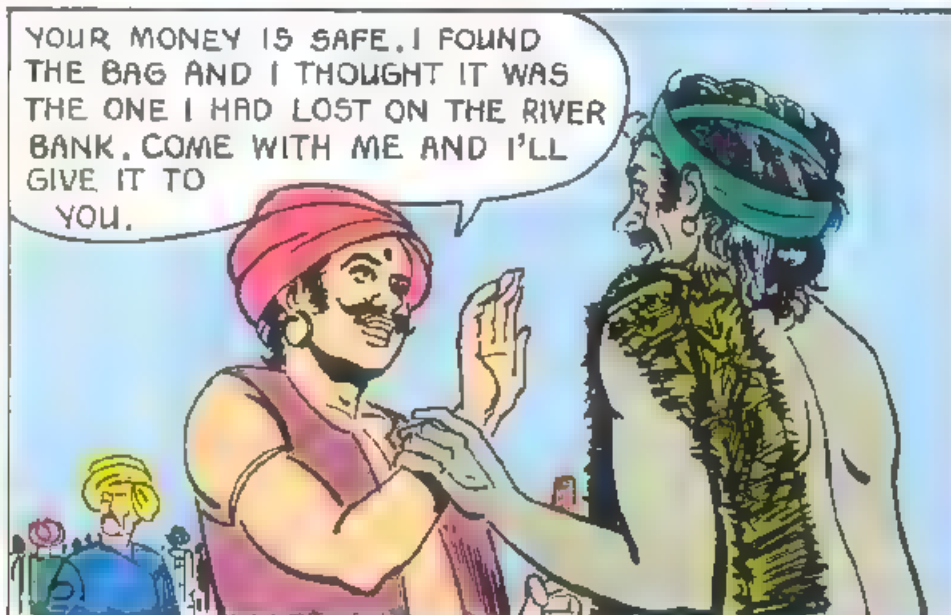
I HAD HIDDEN A BAG OF GOLD COINS IN A WELL. NOW IT HAS DISAPPEARED.



THEN THE BAG I PICKED UP FROM THE WELL WAS NOT MINE.



YOUR MONEY IS SAFE. I FOUND THE BAG AND I THOUGHT IT WAS THE ONE I HAD LOST ON THE RIVER BANK. COME WITH ME AND I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.



THE FARMER TOOK HIM HOME AND GAVE HIM THE BAG OF COINS.

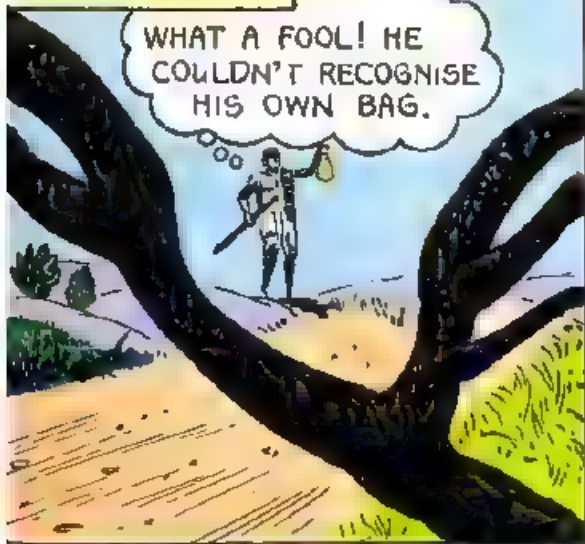
I HOPE YOU SOON FIND YOUR BAG.





AS THE SHEPHERD WALKED  
HOMEWARDS —

WHAT A FOOL! HE  
COULDN'T RECOGNISE  
HIS OWN BAG.

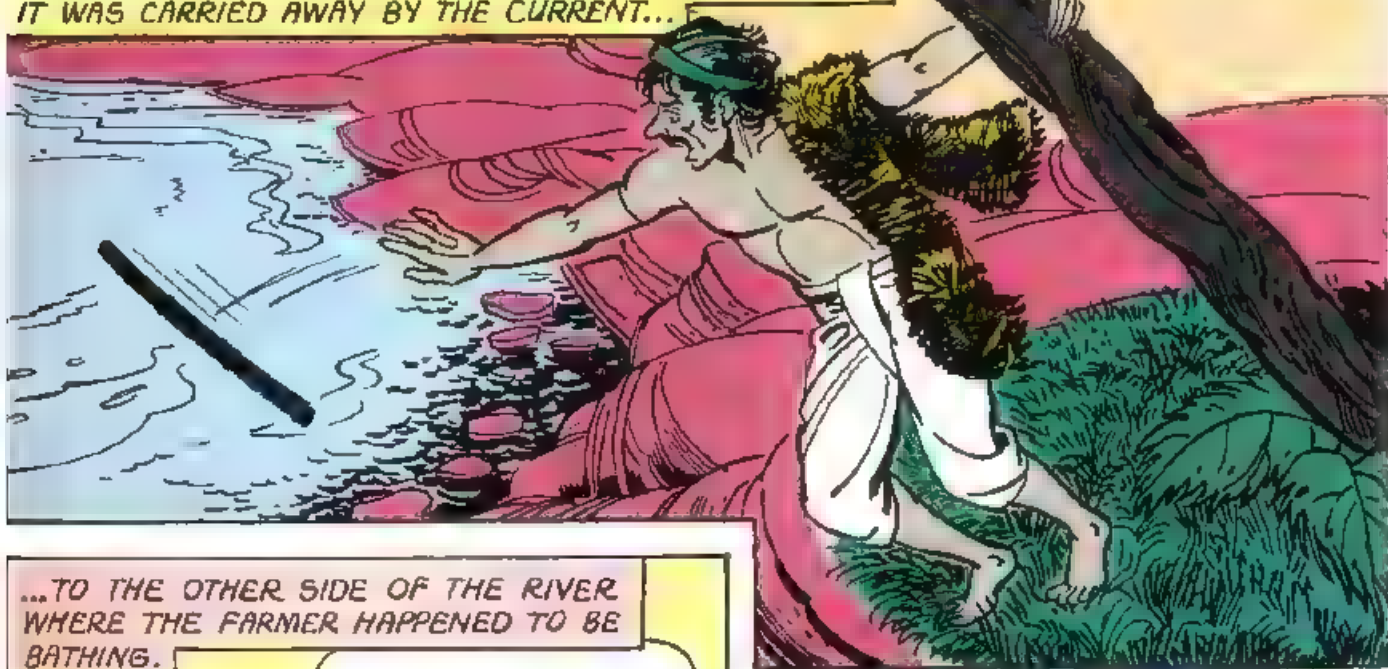


WHEN THE SHEPHERD REACHED HOME —

THE COINS WILL BE  
SAFER IN THE HOLLOW  
OF MY STAFF.

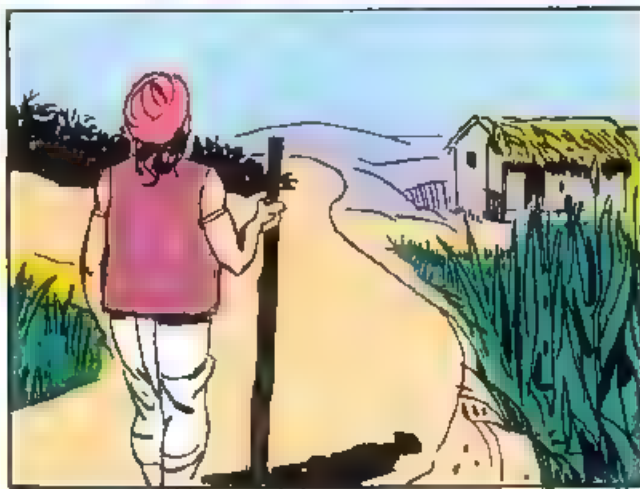


THE NEXT DAY, AS HE WAS WALKING BY THE RIVER, HE TRIPPED AND THE STAFF  
FELL FROM HIS HAND. BEFORE HE COULD RETRIEVE IT,  
IT WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE CURRENT...



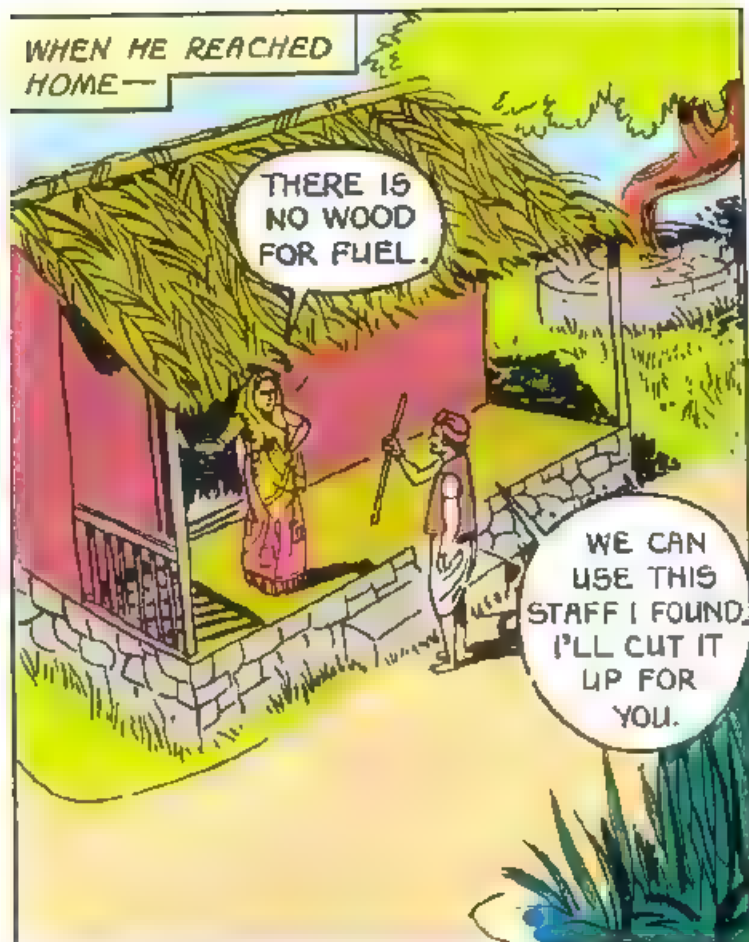
...TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER  
WHERE THE FARMER HAPPENED TO BE  
BATHING.

A STAFF! I MAY FIND  
SOME USE FOR IT.  
I'LL TAKE IT HOME.



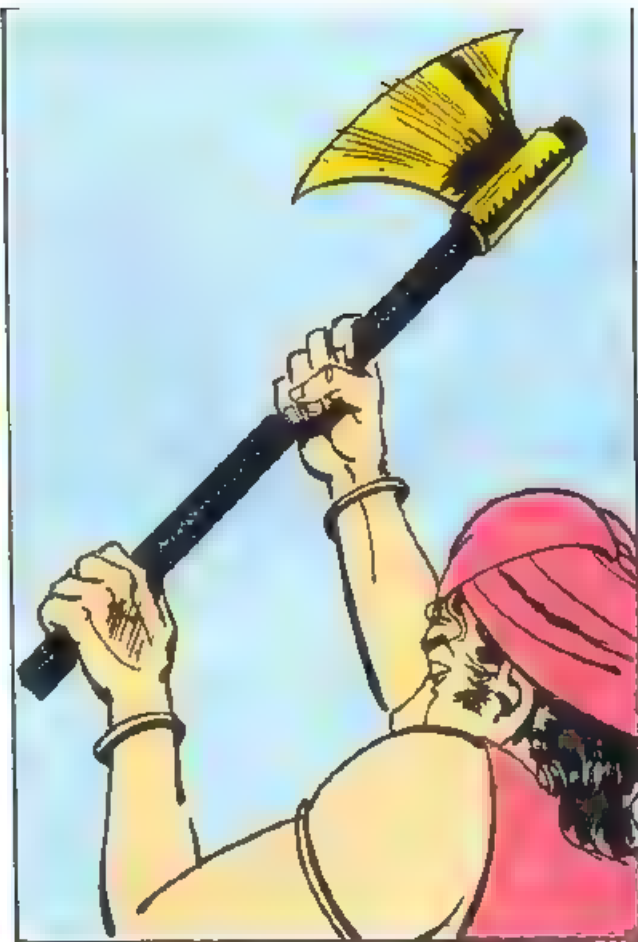


WHEN HE REACHED HOME—



THERE IS NO WOOD FOR FUEL.

WE CAN USE THIS STAFF I FOUND. I'LL CUT IT UP FOR YOU.



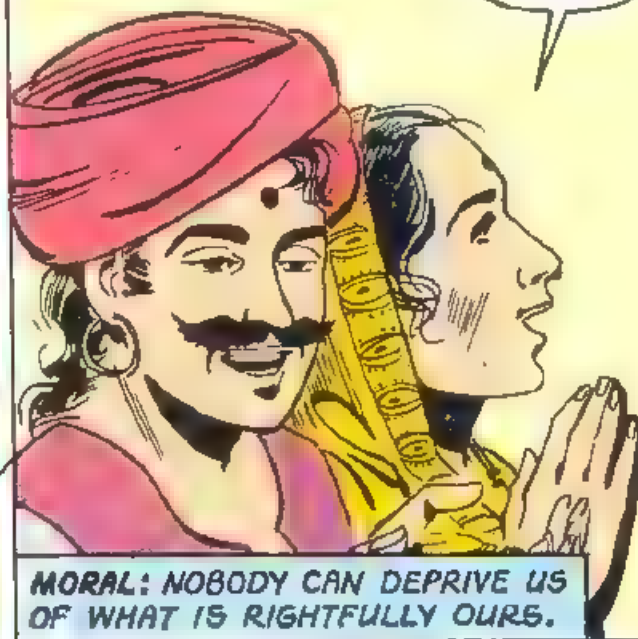
WHEN HE BROUGHT THE AXE DOWN ON THE STAFF—



MY GOLD COINS!

THRICE HAVE I LOST MY COINS AND THRICE HAVE I REGAINED THEM.

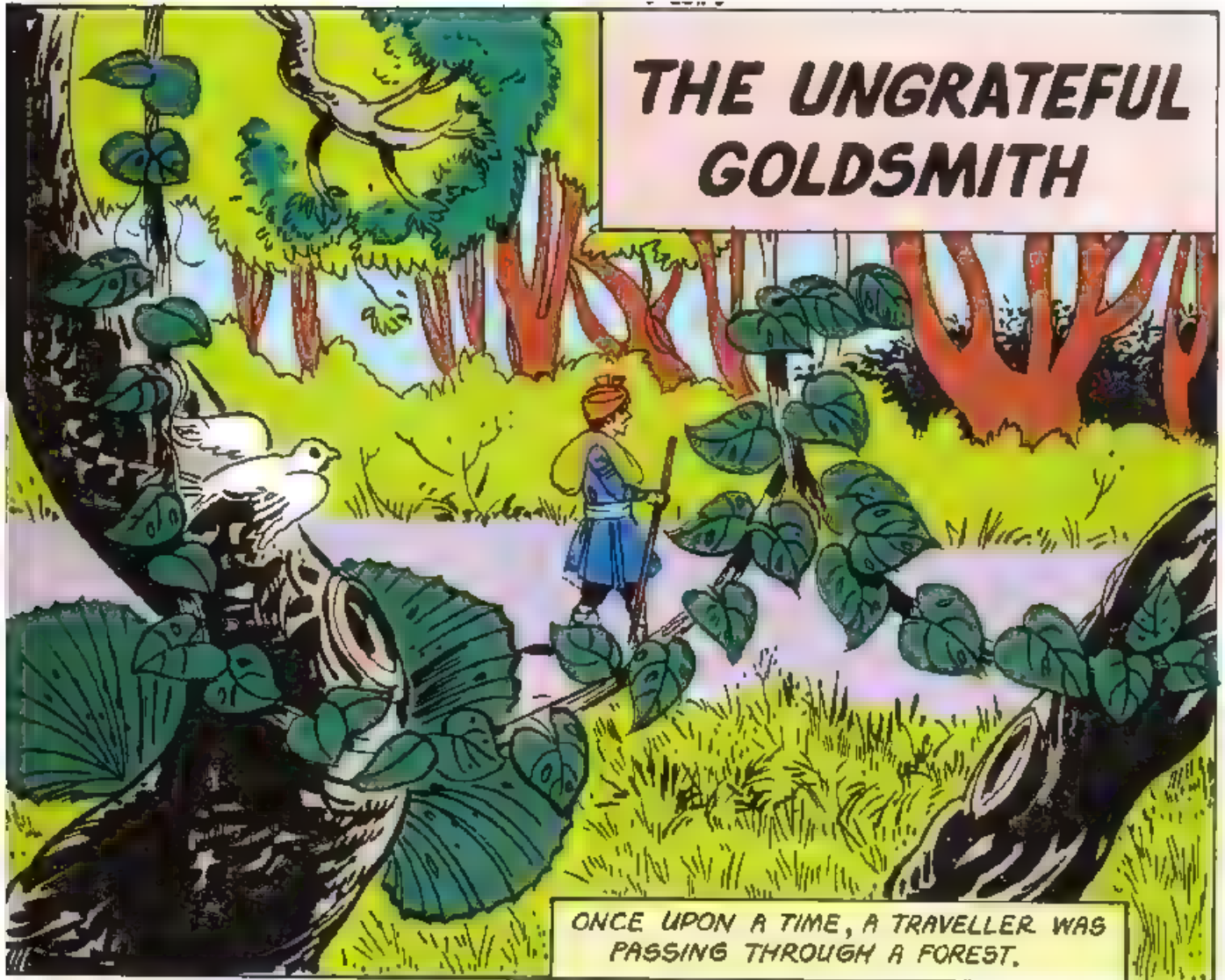
GLORY BE TO GOD!



MORAL: NOBODY CAN DEPRIVE US OF WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.



# THE UNGRATEFUL GOLDSMITH



ONCE UPON A TIME, A TRAVELLER WAS PASSING THROUGH A FOREST.

SUDDENLY —



HELP!  
HELP!

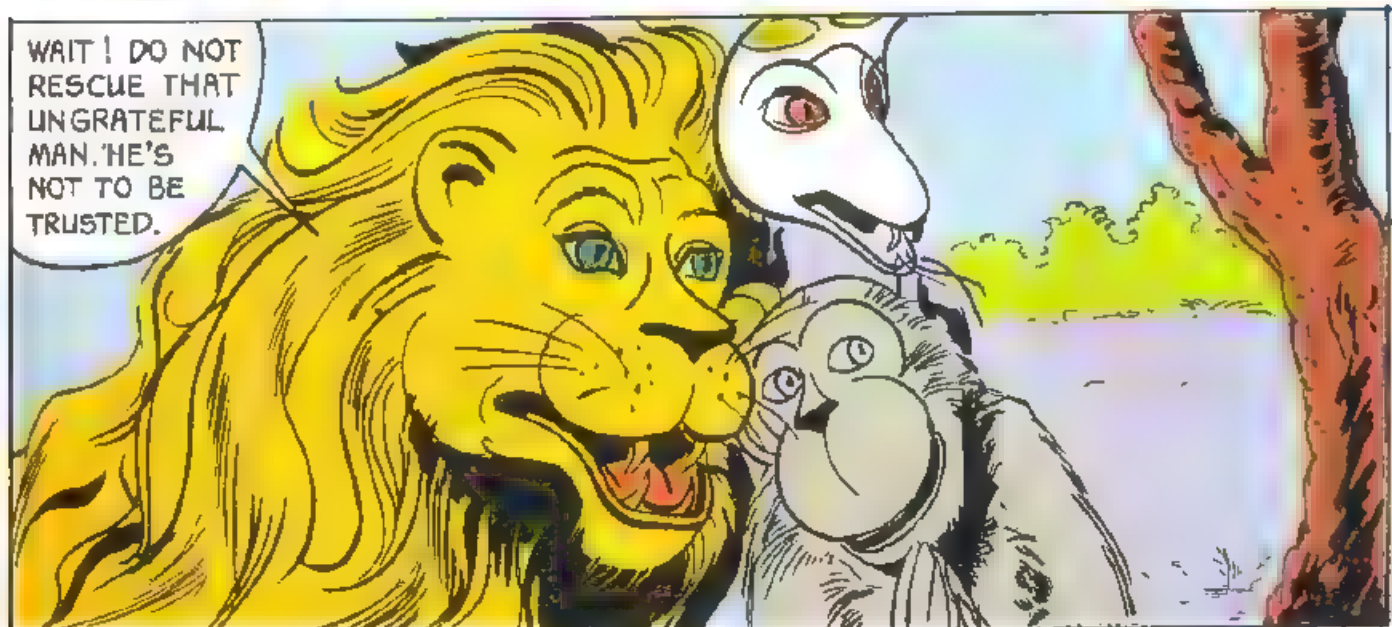
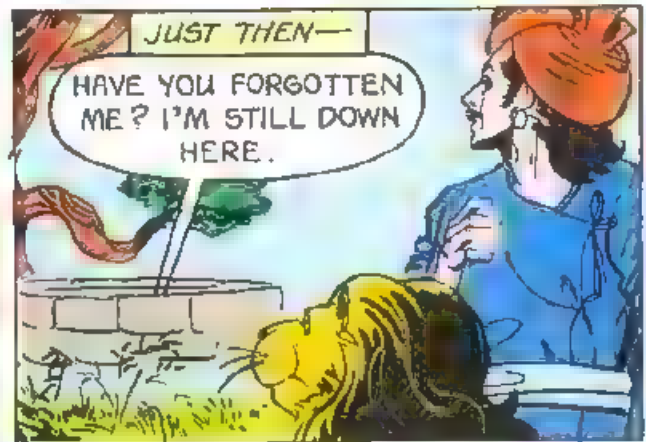
THE VOICE IS  
FROM THAT WELL.  
SOMEBODY MUST  
HAVE FALLEN  
IN.















A YEAR LATER, THE TRAVELLER RETURNED TO THE SAME SPOT WITH A BAG OF GOLD COINS.



AS HE SLEPT, A BAND OF ROBBERS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.





THEY TIED HIM UP...



...PUSHED HIM DOWN THE  
EDGE OF A PRECIPICE...



...AND RAN AWAY WITH HIS  
BAG OF GOLD COINS.

AT THAT MOMENT, THE MONKEY WHO  
HAPPENED TO BE NEAR BY, HEARD  
SOMEONE CRYING FOR HELP.

THAT VOICE  
SOUNDS  
FAMILIAR. LET  
ME SEE WHO  
IT IS.



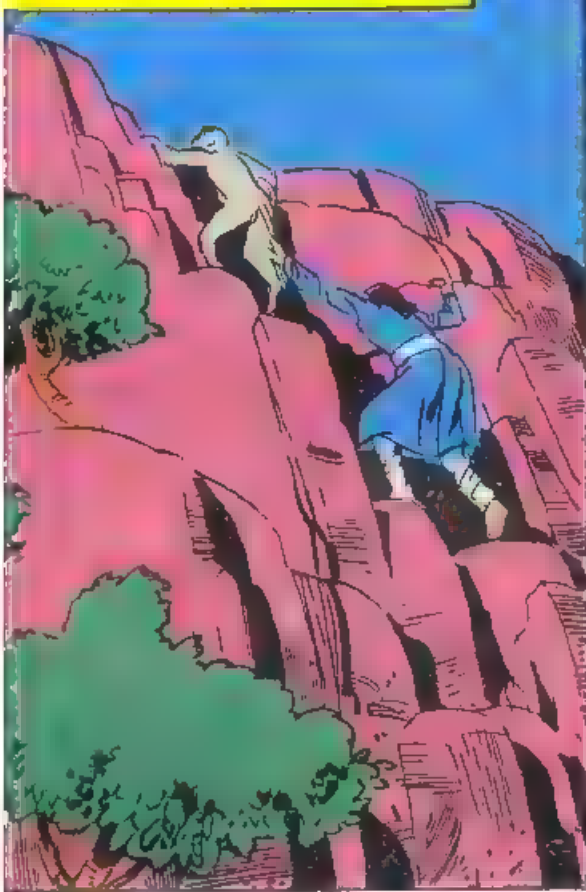
AH! IT'S YOU!  
DO NOT WORRY,  
MY FRIEND. I'LL  
SET YOU FREE  
IN NO TIME.



FORTUNATELY FOR THE TRAVELLER, HE  
HAD FALLEN ON A HEAP OF GRASS.



THE MONKEY RESCUED HIM



AS HE RESTED UNDER A TREE,  
THE TRAVELLER TOLD HIS TALE.



YOU STAY HERE  
AND RELAX. I'LL  
BRING YOU  
YOUR BAG OF  
GOLD COINS.

IT DID NOT TAKE THE MONKEY  
LONG TO FIND THE ROBBERS.



GOOD!  
THEY  
ARE ALL  
ASLEEP.

HE TOOK THEIR POSSESSIONS AND  
HID THEM IN A BUSH NEAR BY.

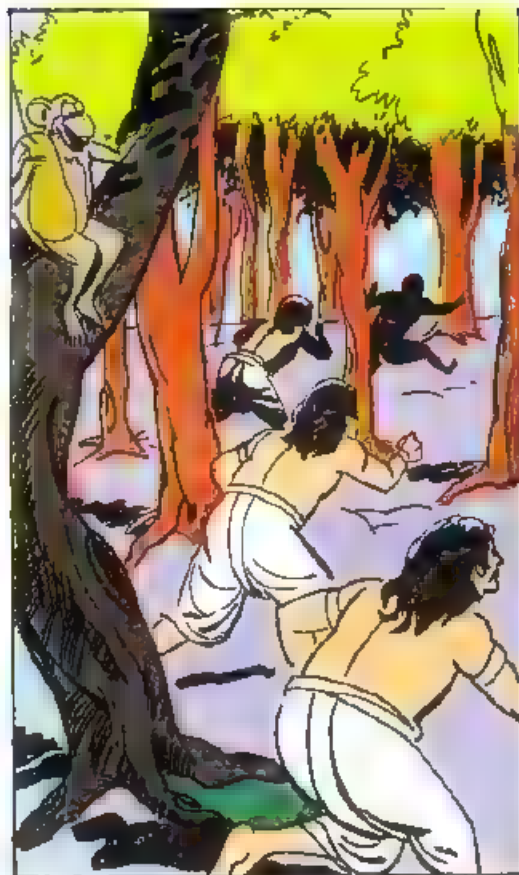




WHEN THE ROBBERS WOKE UP—

HEY! OUR SWORDS!  
OUR BOXES!  
WHERE ARE  
THEY?

SOME EVIL  
SPIRIT HAS  
WHISKED  
THEM AWAY.



THE JUBILANT MONKEY CARRIED THE  
BAG OF COINS TO THE TRAVELLER.



HERE IS  
YOUR BAG  
OF COINS.

YOU  
HAVE BEEN  
KIND TO ME,  
MY FRIEND.

THE TRAVELLER TOOK THE BAG OF  
COINS AND WENT ON HIS WAY, BUT SOON—

GRRR...

OH, GOD!  
A LION!





DON'T BE AFRAID I AM YOUR FRIEND. DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?



WHY, YOU ARE THE LION OF THE WELL!



YOU ARE RIGHT. COME TO MY CAVE AND BE MY GUEST.

AT THE CAVE—

I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU. PLEASE ACCEPT IT.

YOU ARE VERY GENEROUS, O KING OF BEASTS.



AS THE TRAVELLER SET OUT FOR THE CITY—

HOW GRATEFUL THE ANIMALS HAVE BEEN! NOW LET ME VISIT THE GOLDSMITH.



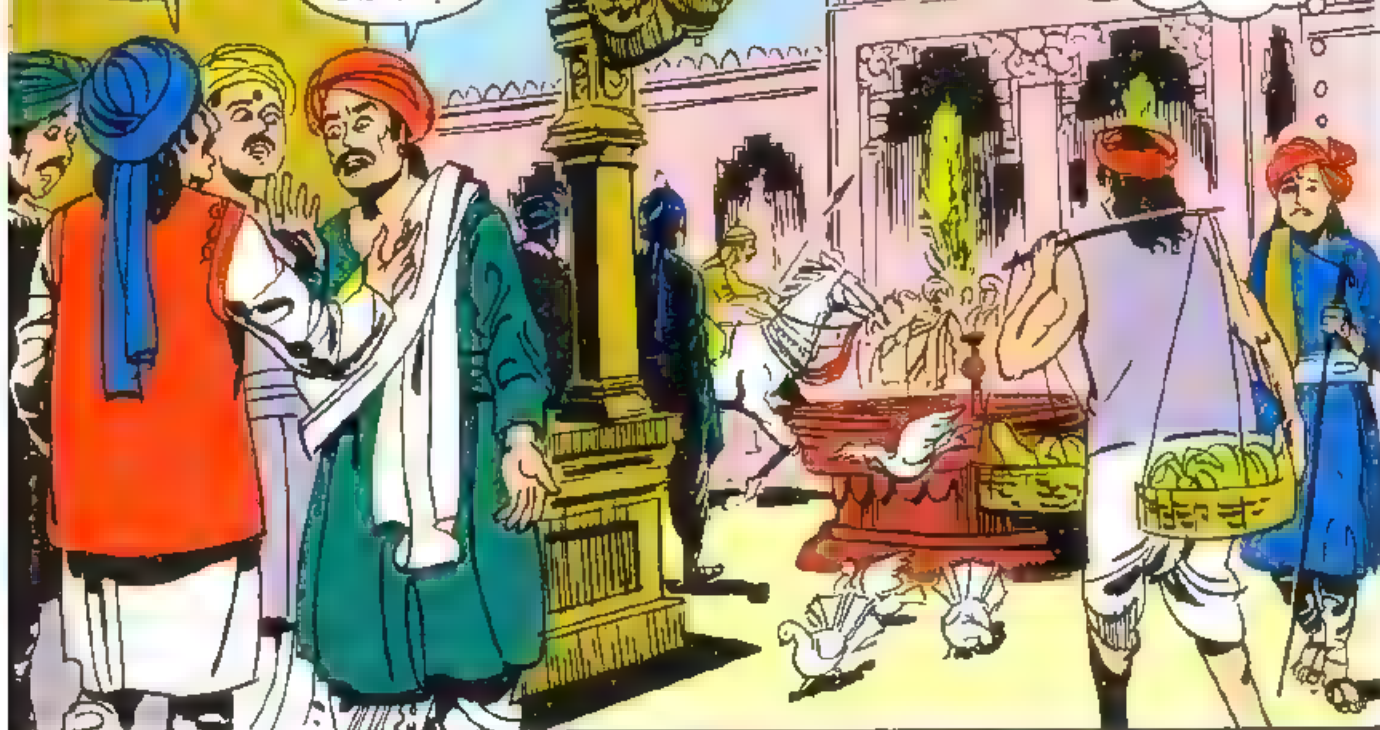


WHEN HE REACHED THE CITY,  
THE NEXT MORNING —

OUR PRINCESS  
IS KILLED!

DO YOU  
KNOW WHO  
DID IT?

IT IS HARD TO FIND  
SOMEONE IN THIS  
EXCITED CROWD WHO  
WILL GUIDE ME TO  
THE GOLDSMITH.



FORTUNATELY THE GOLDSMITH ALSO  
HAPPENED TO BE IN THAT CROWD.

MY FRIEND,  
IT IS A PLEASURE  
TO MEET  
YOU AGAIN. PLEASE  
COME HOME  
WITH ME.

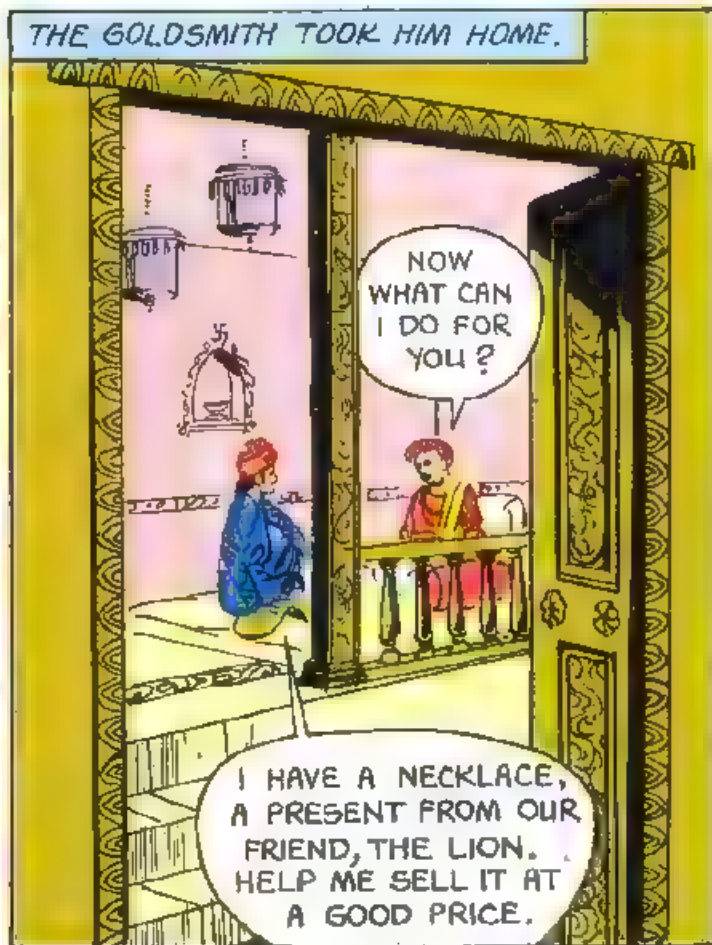
I AM GLAD  
THAT YOU  
REMEMBER ME.



THE GOLDSMITH TOOK HIM HOME.

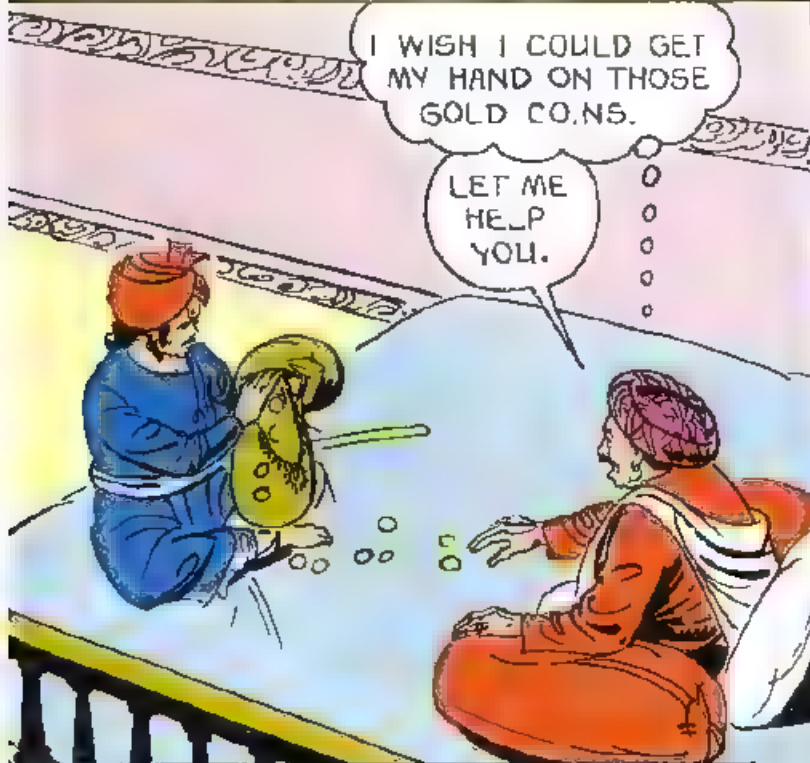
NOW  
WHAT CAN  
I DO FOR  
YOU?

I HAVE A NECKLACE,  
A PRESENT FROM OUR  
FRIEND, THE LION.  
HELP ME SELL IT AT  
A GOOD PRICE.





WHILE TAKING OUT THE NECKLACE FROM THE BAG, THE TRAVELLER SPILLED A FEW COINS.



THE GOLDSMITH GATHERED THE COINS AND HANDED THEM BACK TO THE TRAVELLER.

HERE IS THE NECKLACE. AND I ALSO ENTRUST THIS BAG OF GOLD COINS TO YOU. RETURN IT TO ME WHEN I LEAVE.

YOU CAN TRUST ME WITH YOUR BAG OF GOLD COINS. AND I SHALL SELL YOUR NECKLACE FOR A HIGH PRICE.



THIS LOOKS LIKE THE NECKLACE OF THE PRINCESS. THE LION MUST HAVE KILLED HER AND GOT IT.



I WILL INFORM THE KING ABOUT THE NECKLACE. THE TRAVELLER WILL BE SUSPECTED AND HANGED. I WILL BE REWARDED AND THE COINS WILL BE MINE FOREVER.





WHEN THE KING WAS INFORMED, HE ORDERED THE ARREST OF THE TRAVELLER.

YOU TOOK THE LIFE OF THE PRINCESS. NOW YOU PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR LIFE.

YOUR MAJESTY, I AM INNOCENT.

THE NECKLACE FOUND IN YOUR POSSESSION PROVES YOUR GUILT. YOU WILL BE HANGED TOMORROW AT SUNRISE.

OH GOD!

THE TRAVELLER WAS KEPT IN PRISON FOR THE NIGHT.

THE ANIMALS WERE RIGHT. THE GOLDSMITH HAS BETRAYED MY TRUST.

TAKE HEART. NOT EVERYTHING IS LOST. I'M HERE.

IT'S YOU, MY FRIEND. BUT HOW WILL YOU SAVE ME?

I WILL GO AND BITE THE QUEEN MOTHER.











AS THE TRAVELLER CONCLUDED HIS STORY—

THE PRINCESS MIGHT  
HAVE BEEN KILLED  
BY THE LION. THE  
GREEDY GOLDSMITH  
LIED ABOUT ME.

HE SHALL BE  
PUNISHED.  
NOW PLEASE  
CURE HER.



THE TRAVELLER MIXED  
THE HERB IN A GLASS  
OF MILK...



...AND MADE THE QUEEN  
MOTHER DRINK IT.



MOTHER!  
DO YOU FEEL  
BETTER?



I DO, MY SON.  
SEE THAT THE  
ONE WHO SAVED  
MY LIFE IS  
AMPLY REWARDED.



THE KING TURNED TO THE TRAVELLER.

PLEASE ACCEPT  
THIS BAG OF  
GOLD COINS.

THANK  
YOU, YOUR  
MAJESTY.



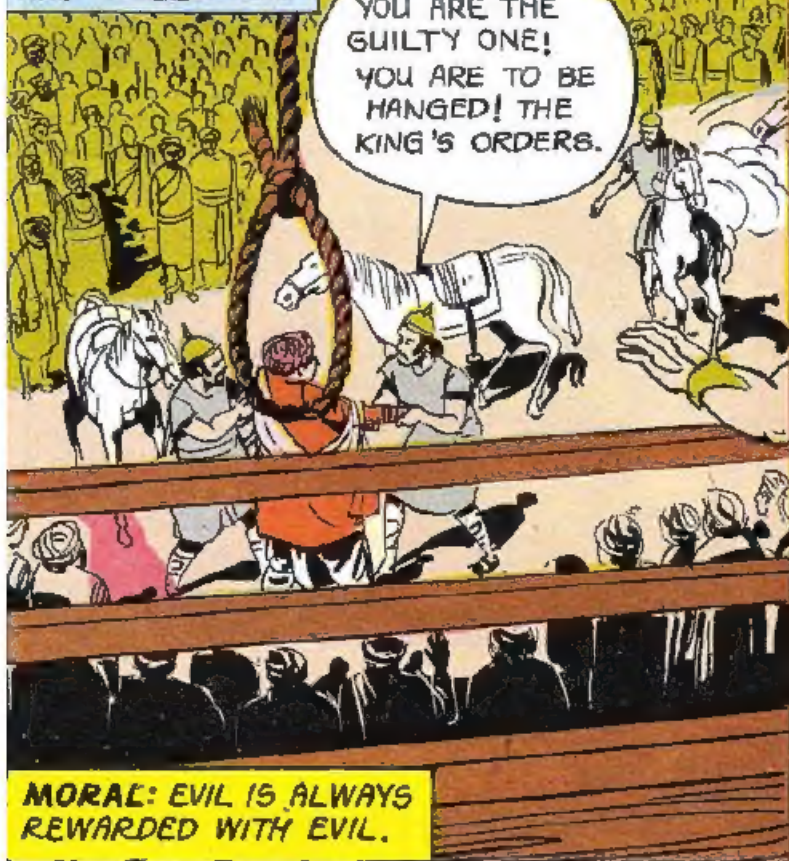
BY THEN IT WAS DAYBREAK. THE  
GOLDSMITH WAS WAITING AT THE  
PLACE OF EXECUTION.

THE TRAVELLER  
HAS NOT YET BEEN  
BROUGHT. ONCE  
HE IS HANGED,  
I'M SAFE.



JUST THEN THE KING'S SOLDIERS CAME THERE  
AND SEIZED HIM.

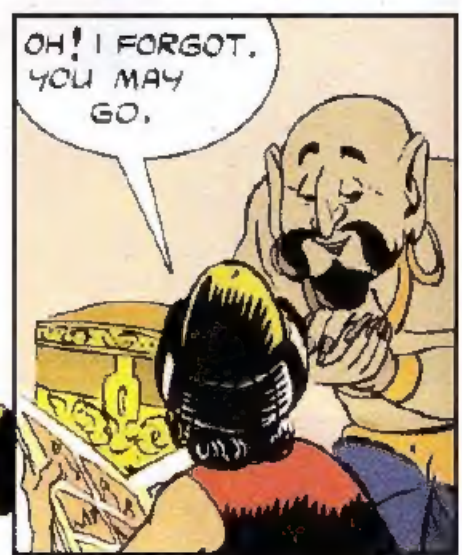
YOU ARE THE  
GUILTY ONE!  
YOU ARE TO BE  
HANGED! THE  
KING'S ORDERS.



MORAL: EVIL IS ALWAYS  
REWARDED WITH EVIL.







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